

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
12:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Continuing Education and Conference Center
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Alex Bartolic, Vice Chair
Ashley Bailey, Vice Chair
Michelle Albeck
Emilie Breit
Lisa Emmert
Pamela Hoopes
Eric Kloos
Mary Martin
Noah McCourt
Randy Miller
Jillian Nelson
Kate Onyeneho
Carolyn Perron
David Quilleash
Dan Reed
Reid Scheller
Lee Shervheim
Heather Tidd

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Hanna Barr
David R. Johnson
Sarah Mapellentz
Jacqueline Rightler
Alan Wilensky

ABSENT

Jim Lovold

GUESTS

David FitzSimmons, Office of Congressman
Tom Emmer
Meg Louwagie, Office of Congressman
Collin Peterson
Rick Olseen, Office of Congressman
Rick Nolan
April Shaw, Office of Congresswoman
Betty McCollum
Mike Siebenaler, Office of Congressman
Keith Ellison

GUESTS, cont'd.

Department of Administration:
Commissioner Matt Massman
Katie Knutson
Curt Yoakum
Wendy Berghorst, Department of Health
Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State
University
Alicia Munson, The Arc Minnesota
Bonne Jean Smith
Ellie Wilson, Autism Society of Minnesota

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Senator John Hoffman, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. He extended a welcome to all of today's guests.

Colleen Wieck thanked the Congressional staff who accepted our invitation to attend today's meeting. We have worked with each office and they have supported the Council and our work when funding reductions have been proposed. They also come to Partners for the weekend session on federal issues.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

COUNCIL PROGRAM

A. Perspectives and Insights Regarding 2017 Federal Policy Issues and Looking Ahead to 2018 with Minnesota's Congressional Staff and Presentation of Certificates

Congressional staff members thanked the Council for the invitation to today's meeting. They expressed similar concern about programs and funding reductions that are relied upon by individuals with developmental disabilities and families.

They then spoke about policy issues that will be addressed during the 2018 Congressional session.

April Shaw, Office of Congresswoman Betty McCollum, said it's appropriate when the Council engages with Congresswoman McCollum's office, and appreciates the opportunity to be involved with the Partners in Policymaking program. She always comes away feeling very energized.

She said there are constant efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act that could leave 13 million people uninsured, eliminate the medical expense deduction, and increase premiums about 10%. The tax reform bill is headed to Conference Committee; this will raise taxes for many people, and greatly increase the federal deficit.

Rick Olseen, Office of Congressman Rick Nolan, said that Congressman Nolan has visited work programs and adults with disabilities who are doing contract work, and met with staff. If Medicaid cuts are made, there won't be funding for several services. Individuals who are now working would be left sitting in their group homes during those daytime hours

Commissioner Matt Massman joined the meeting, bringing greetings from Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith. The Commissioner noted that emphasis is being placed on diversity and inclusion, and around civic engagement. These efforts are to ensure that all people have a seat at the table and all voices are heard. He thanked everyone for the work being done.

Council Chair Hoffman and Commissioner Massman then presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Congressional staff in recognition of their "public policy leadership that has resulted in improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities."

Presentations then continued.

Mike Siebenaler, Office of Congressman Keith Ellison, said that advocacy on public policy issues increased in 2017 and will be up again in 2018. Many proposals and policy changes will not be helpful to the folks in this room today.

He added that Congressman Ellison wants to make sure that the impact of these proposals is as little as possible. He is constantly involved in the community and aware of how these issues are affecting individuals and their personal goals. He is looking for stories to share with the media, wanting to put a face to the programs that people are using and relying upon, and proposed funding cuts to these programs.

Meg Louwagie, Office of Congressman Collin Peterson, noted that her first experience with the Partners program was this past April. Congressman Peterson serves on a Congressional Autism Caucus and is familiar with Advance Opportunities, an employment and training program for adults with disabilities.

David FitzSimmons, Office of Congressman Tom Emmer, mentioned the rancor and discord that is so much a part of discussions in Congress on policy issues; he appreciates the partnership among colleagues. He said that the Council is instrumental in advocating for people with developmental disabilities and families, finding more and better ways to keep people with disabilities in the work force.

Onyeneho said that she has been to several schools, involved in IEP meetings and interested in seeing an increase in minority educators, social workers, and mental health professionals in the field of education.

In response, Olseen said that he attended a mental health forum on the opioid issue a few weeks ago in Pine County. People want to work to improve minority representation among educators but not sure how to get there.

Reed said that Medicaid is typically not talked about in terms of cuts; it has to be protected. Shaw mentioned the "This is Medicaid" campaign, and community and organization efforts to protect Medicaid.

Siebenaler said that Congressional members are always working on aspects of Medicaid but may not always be aware of all of these efforts at the local level.

Tidd said she has made many calls to Congressional Offices, and has asked family members to assist in speaking up about why and how Medicaid is so important.

Senator Hoffman commented that everyone seems to understand Medicaid issues but asked the best way to get information to Congressional members. Olseen said Letters to the Editor still work.

Emmert said that her family is not Medicaid dependent but the tax cuts and the impact on middle income families are very concerning. They are helping their son to just stay afloat.

Quilleash said that none of us wants cuts to vital programs but it seems inevitable that cuts will be coming. He added that we need to work with people at the state and local levels, and look at making programs more flexible.

Nelson said that many adults with disabilities are living independently but programs are losing funding, such as Autism Works.

Quilleash commented about Minnesota's Olmstead Plan, noting that he is a huge advocate of the spirit behind the Olmstead Plan, the real messages about person centered planning, community participation, and personal choice.

Miller asked that the Olmstead Plan not take away options for individuals with developmental disabilities, such as day programs.

Congressional staff members were thanked again for coming to today's meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Senator Hoffman asked for approval of the Agenda.

MOTION: Reed moved, seconded by Nelson to approve the Agenda. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 4, 2017

Senator Hoffman asked for approval of the Minutes as written for October 4, 2017

MOTION: Reed moved, seconded by Emmert to approve the Minutes as written for October 4, 2017. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's report.

VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Quilleash reported that the Committee reviewed, discussed, and is recommending approval of the proposed per diem policy for the Council. He said that it's a personal decision as to whether Council members request the per diem or not. For some members, it may fill a small void in their income. For some who are here on a volunteer basis, or taking time off work and not otherwise compensated, it would provide some financial assistance.

MOTION: Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the Proposed Per Diem Policy for the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, seconded by McCourt. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

VII PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Kloos reported that Dr. Jim Conroy was not able to attend today's meeting.

Femina Ajayi, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB), presented a status report on Executive Order 14-14 regarding the employment of people with disabilities in state government. In 1999, the employment rate was 10%. The baseline for the Executive Order was 3.9% and the 2017 goal of 7% was met.

Nelson said she has seen the impact of Connect 700 and shared a story of a friend who completed the program. She is one step below the ten year goal she set for herself.

A total of 676 participants have been certified; 145 appointments have been made; and between 52 and 58 of those appointments have been converted to full time employment status.

VIII EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. FFY 2017 Business Results

Wieck referenced the August Council meeting program that served as an orientation for new members, and the October meeting that included presentations by grant recipients and the impact of those grant projects and activities.

The Business Results are presented on an annual basis, and track key data elements and trend lines. They begin with a focus on customers and the technical assistance that is offered. This often includes reaching out to the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) for advice or referring individuals there for assistance or representation.

Quilleash wanted to credit the MDLC with handling a situation that he encountered, not his own, but referring someone there who was very satisfied with the results.

Perron mentioned that the Senior Linkage Line is receiving more questions about Social Security and more complicated issues.

Information and resources for customers include online educational materials and training courses, with downloads steadily increasing. Print is treated as an alternative format. The revised and updated edition of It's My Choice was just released.

The Business Results conclude with supplier and partner results for the grant projects and activities that are being carried out.

B. Highlights from Monthly Activity Reports

Wieck provided the following updates:

1. The next appointment process for Council members is beginning.

2. The current Continuing Resolution expires on December 8, 2017.
3. The Annual Program Performance Report is being drafted.
4. A status conference is scheduled for December 8, 2017 for both the Jensen Settlement Agreement and the Olmstead Plan –
 - a. The Olmstead Plan Amendment process begins in December;
 - b. Subcabinet meetings continue to be held monthly;
 - c. A health care disparities study only references race; disability is not included;
 - d. The Quality of Life survey results are expected in December; 2,000 people responded.
5. Department of Health meetings have been held over the past several months; the Prevention of Abuse Specialty Committee is preparing a report.
6. Recent website features have included Nathan Barclay's story on WCCO, his musical talents, and his Master of Keys business (for October) and the launch of the Legacy grant (November); December's feature is the release of the Ambassadors for Respect Handbook.
7. Allan Bergman will be presenting on Medicaid for the February 7, 2018 Council meeting and a Partners workshop the following day on February 8, 2018.

Kloos said a Special Directors' meeting on Friday, December 8, 2017 is being held to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the passing of Minnesota's Special Education Law. The celebration will be videotaped.

Alicia Munson, The Arc Minnesota, announced that Disability Day at the Capitol will be held in February. The DD waiver waiting list has been reduced from more than 3,000 individuals to between 200 and 250 individuals.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Hoffman asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director